*162. *[The questioner (Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao and Shri Rama Muni Reddy Sirigireddy) were absent for answer vide page 30.]*

Animal Welfare Schemes

*163. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:†
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to handover entire animal welfare schemes to the Animal Welfare Board of India;

(b) if so, by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken;

(c) the funds allotted to AWBI during the years 1998-99 to 2002-03; and

(d) the number of institutions registered by AWBI during the years 1998-99 to 2002-03 and per animal grant the AWBI could provide to such institutions, yearly?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) There is no proposal to handover Animal Welfare Schemes to the Animal Welfare Board of India at present.

(c) The funds allocated to AWBI during the years 1998-99 to 2002-2003 are as under :

Funds allotted to AWBI

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Year	Plan	Non Plan	Total
1998-1999	423.00	47.00	470.00
1999-2000	470.00	48.00	518.00
2000-2001	500.00	48.00	548.00
2001-2002	472.00	53.00	525.00
2002-2003	465.00	53.00	513.00

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Lalitbhai Mehta.

(d) The number of institutions registered by AWBI during the years 1998-99 to 2002-2003 is as under:

Year	No. of Institutions
1998-1999	135
1999-2000	494
2000-2001	276
2001-2002	442
2002-2003	224

Assistance is provided as per norms decided by the Board for the various schemes *viz.* Maintenance of Rescue Homes, Construction of Water Trough, Purchase of Medicine Medical Equipments Rescue Operation etc. The number of animals with each beneficiary is a variable factor.

SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Madam Deputy Chairperson, the reply given by the Hon. Minister in part (d) of the answer mentions about the number of new institutions registered each year by the Animal Welfare Board of India. The total number of institutions as registered was 464 in the year 1998-99, which rose to 1899 at the end of the year 2002-2003. Would the Hon. Minister clarify this position? We have to consider the fact that the total number of animals that were given grants in the year 1998-99 was roughly 70,000 only and that number has increased to nearly three lakhs now. If we consider the fact that grants were given to the tune of Rs. 4.65 crores in the year 2002-03, the Animal Welfare Board of India is in a position to provide grant of 30 naya paise per day per animal. Does the Minister think that this is sufficient to look after the old animals that are being maintained by these boards, gaushalas and other institutions? What does the Minister propose to do in this regard?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, the number of institutions registered during 1998-99 has been 135, in 2000 it was 494, in 2001 it was 275, in 2002 it was 442, in 2002-03 it is 224, totalling 1,899. The Member has shown his concern about spending of money on animals in this aspect. Madam, there is no dearth of funds as far as spending is concerned. As and when we receive utilisation certificate, we will definitely allocate funds. We have extended Rs. 238 lakhs this year-towards Plan expenditure, Rs. 186.96 lakhs and towards Non-Plan expenditure Rs. 51.15 lakhs.

There is no dearth of funds. As and when the utilisation certificate is received, we will sanction fund.

SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Madam, the answer given in part (a) and (b) says that there is no proposal to hand over the animal welfare scheme to the Animal Welfare Board of India. Madam, Section 9 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, reads as under: "To encourage by the grant of financial assistance or otherwise the formation of establishment of panjra poles, rescue homes, animal shelters, sanctuaries and the like where animals and birds may find shelter whenever they become old and useless, when they need protection." The very provision of this Act envisages that the animal welfare activity should be done by the special institution which has been created. Now, the Ministry itself is handling the animal welfare scheme, and, therefore, inordinate delays are taking place.

I can cite one concrete example. The institution to which I am connected, had sent one application. The first instalment of the grant was released a year back. Then, the compliance report was sent. The audited statements, the architect's certificate and other certificates were sent a year back. Even then, the second instalment is not being released.

Another thing is, the Ministry has such officials. Today, some Commissioner (Industries) from Gujarat has taken over as the incharge of the animal welfare activity. I just want to know whether there is any sense in keeping all the schemes with the Ministry itself. Why can't you transfer them to the Animal Welfare Board of India? Interestingly, the animal husbandry division is being looked after by the Agriculture Ministry. The business of slaughter house is being looked after by the Food Processing Ministry. But the Animal Welfare Division is being looked after by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. What is the sense in this? Will the Minister clarify? Why is he hesitant in handing over this scheme to the Animal Welfare Board of India, which is specially created for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Because, most of the animals live in the forests, not only on the streets.

SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Madam, this is not the case. The Wild Life Act is altogether different, and no wild animals are being kept in the panjra poles, Go Sadans or Go Shalas.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, first of all, I can answer the first part: Why an IAS officer from Gujarat has been the incharge of animal welfare business? IAS officers are IAS officers. They can be posted anywhere. They can look after agriculture, they can look after environment and anything. But his questions is, why the Animal Welfare Board of India itself could not tackle this particular subject matter. Madam, in July, this subject matter was discussed in the Board, of which the hon. Member himself is a member it was decided to postpone the decision on whether to transfer or not to transfer this matter till the new Board is constituted. At the same time, he has mentioned delay in transfer of funds. Yes, it has been delayed, why has there been a delay? There is some mismanagement as far as financial discipline is concerned.

I have asked for a Special Audit. Madam, I would like to submit one or two things so that Members do not find fault with me. There was diversion of Plan funds to the tune of Rs. 21.7 lakh for non-Plan purposes ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Madam, I am referring to the institutions ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him reply ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, a major part has been spent on unauthorised Delhi office of the Chairman and his travel. ...(*Interruptions*)... There was a sanction of Rs. 108.72 lakh to 277 unrecognised institutions our of the Mahavir Centenary Fund. There was sanction of grant to the organisations run by the office bearers of the Board. Madam, the office bearers of the Board. There was release of funds without utilisation certificate. There was grant of assistance much beyond the approved norms. There was creation of posts despite ban to this effect. Thank you, Madam.

उपसभापति: आपका जवाब तो दे दिया अब सविता जी पूछ लें।

श्रीमती सविता शारदा: धन्यवाद उपसभापति महोदया। मुझे मंत्री जी से यह जानना है कि अगर हम शुद्ध आर्थिक दृष्टिकोण से भी विचार करें तो देश में जीवित पशुधन के बारे क्या यह सच है कि बिन उपयोगी पशुओं पर किया गया रखरखाव व्यर्थ नहीं जाता क्योंकि उनसे मिलने वाला गोबर, मूत्र जैविक खाद और बायोगैस बनाने के काम में लाया जा सकता है। इससे हमारी कृषि, कृषि जमीन की उत्पादकता बढ़ाने और कृषि की पैदावार की गुणवत्ता बढ़ाने में बहुत लाभ

प्राप्त हो सकता है। इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए देश में अठाइस करोड़ पशुधन कल्याण की आपकी क्या योजनाएं हैं? इसके साथ ही साथ ललितभाई जी ने बहुत कुछ पूछ लिया है मैं यह जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या 1998 से लेकर 2003 तक पशु कल्याण बोर्ड को आवंटित निधियों का पूरा उपयोग किया गया है? अगर किया गया है तो गुजरात राज्य में इसकी क्या स्थिति है और गुजरात राज्य को कितना धन आवंटित किया गया है?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: As far as this question is concerned, I am not having the particular figures now. The hon. Member has made some suggestion that will be looked into.

उपसभापति: क्वेश्चन नं 164।

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: उपसभापति महोदया मेरा एक प्रश्न है।

उपसभापति: आपने पूछना है? आपने नाम नहीं दिया है।

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: है।

उपसभापति: ठीक है, आप बोलिए। आपने हाथ नहीं उठाया होगा। जब उठाया होगा तो हम लोग जानवरों में बिजी थे।

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने 1998-99 से लेकर 2002-03 तक जो संस्थाएं पंजीकृत हुई हैं उनकी संख्या लगभग सोलह सौ दी है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि ये जो सोलह सौ पंजीकृत संस्थाएं हैं इनके अतिरिक्त भी बहुत सी गऊशालाएं चल रही हैं। मैडम, किसानों को बहुत बुरे तरीके से इन गऊशालाओं में प्रताड़ित किया जाता है। अगर कोई किसान अपनी खेती के लिए बैल मेरठ मुरादाबाद या अमरोहा जिले में ले जाता है तो उसके बैलों को रोका जाता है। बहुत सी संस्थाओं में बहुत सी ऐसी पंजीकृत संस्थाओं में और जो बिना पंजीकृत संस्थाएं हैं उनमें इनका रोजगार किया जाता है उनको बाद में बेचा जाता है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि ऐसी संस्थाएं जो बिना पंजीकृत हुए काम कर रही हैं इनके बारे में आप कैसे समाधान निकालेंगे? मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि यह जो व्यवस्था हो रही है कि किसानों को प्रताड़ित किया जाता है जो खेती के लायक बैल होते हैं, उन बैलों को रोका जाता है इसकी रोकथाम के लिए सरकार क्या उपाय करेगी?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, if there is any specific issue, the hon. Member can write to me. We will definitely take action in consultation with the other concerned Ministries.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: मैडम यह इसके साथ जुड़ा हुआ है। जो गऊशालाएं हैं यह उनके साथ जुड़ा हुआ है, आप कैसे कह रहे हैं कि यह अलग है। मैडम, आप थोड़ा सा संरक्षण दें।

SHRI T.R BAALU: Madam, the hon Member has suggested something beyond the purview of this question First of all he has mentioned that some unregistered organisations are taking some action That is why I have requested him that if there is any specific complaint with him, he can write to me. I will consult the Agriculture Minister also and give a reply to the hon. Members.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: मैडम, ये तो कोई उपाय करें, कोई व्यवस्था करें। जो शिकायतें पहुंचेगी उन शिकायतों का ये कैसे निबटारा करेंगे?

उपसभापति: इनके पास शिकायत आई ही नहीं है।

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: मेरे यहां मेरे क्षेत्र की हजारों की तादाद में ये शिकायते हैं।

उपसभापति: वे यह कह रहे हैं कि शायद इनके डिपार्टमेंट में नहीं आई है। अगर आपको किसी शिकायत की जानकारी है तो कृपया उनको भिजवा दीजिए और उसके बाद भी अगर वे उस पर कोई निर्णय नहीं लेते हैं तो आप दुबारा क्वेश्चन पूछ लीजिएगा।

SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Madam, Deputy Chairman, I wish to raise an issue of cruelty to animals. The welfare of animals comes under the Department of Animal Welfare. The proposal is that all animal welfare schemes should be taken over by the Animal Welfare Board. What I understand from the hon. Minister's reply is that various Ministries are responsible, in their own way, including the municipalities of towns, for the welfare of animals. I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that our cruel treatment towards animals made an international organisation called PETA People for Ethical Treatment of Animals—to recommend world-wide that leather manufacturers should not use leather imported from India because they are from animals which have been most cruelly slaughtered. Similarly, look at the condition of our municipal slaughterhouses. The hon. Minister would, undoubtedly, be aware of it, though they may not come under his Ministry. My question is this. The slaughterhouses may continue the way they are continuing and the animals can continue to be slaughtered. Is it possible for the Government of India to ensure that animals are slaughtered in a humane fashion?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Yes, I agree that animals should be slaughtered in humane fashion. We have got rules for this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: A slaughter can just be a slaughter. I have not come across a sweet guillotine in my life. But, anyway, it is a good suggestion.

History textbooks for class XII

*164. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Secondary Education recommended a list of history textbooks for class XII students of CBSE-affiliated schools;

(b) if so, whether the list includes textbooks entitled "Modern India" and "Contemporary World History" brought out by NCERT in April, 2003 and May, 2003 respectively;

(c) whether the CBSE got these textbooks evaluated before recommending them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) normally recommends the text books of NCERT for all subjects wherever the NCERT books are available.

(c) As the text books are evaluated by NCERT before publication, the CBSE does not evaluate them again.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Madam, as per his reply, the CBSE has committed a gross breach of rules and procedure because the CBSE is expected—that is the procedure followed so far for decades—to evaluate the books before recommending them. It cannot recommend the books just because the NCERT has produced the books. They say that the books are good. You have to look at them, evaluate them and then recommend. They have committed a gross breach of rules and their duty. I raise this question because these books, which I have with me, and through which I have gone for myself personally, are: Modern India—textbook for Class XII; India in the World, textbook Social Science for Class VII; Contemporary World History for Class XII, are all